

Remarks

1. Introduction

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 16, and 19 are independent claims.

2. Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 7, 12-15, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (Japanese Patent Application H10-56600) in view of Tsukidate et al. (EP 0838951). Claims 5, 6, 8-11, 16-18, and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (Japanese Patent Application H10-56600) in view of Tsukidate et al. (EP 0838951), and further in view of Ismail et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0118323 A1).

The Office Action states that the Sato reference discloses a program information searching device which automatically applies a tacit search condition maintained in memory. Further, the Office Action states that Sato provides an apparatus for transmitting program information concerning a program to broadcast. The Office Action states that Sato is silent regarding the actual movement of the information to a desired terminal.

As evident in the Sato reference, the user's home includes a database of recording program information, designated as element 7 in Figure 1. Specifically, Sato teaches the following for the database 7 which stores program information:

The database 7 may be such as to have been transmitted by terrestrial broadcasts or satellite broadcasts, received and stored (such as an electronic program guide), or may be inputted through a telephone line and stored. Additionally, it may also be stored in packaged software such as a disk or CD-ROM.

Pg. 5. Thus, Sato teaches that the entire program guide database is downloaded to each user. After which, the user may use database search means, designated as element 4 in Figure 1, to perform a database search. Pg. 5.

Similar to the Sato reference, the Tsukidate and Ismail references each teach that the program guide database is downloaded to each user. For example, the Tsukidate reference teaches that master data 21 and program basic information 22 are downloaded to each user. See col. 9, lines 10-24. Further, the Ismail reference teaches a first component 105 which includes a listing of programs. See Figure 1.

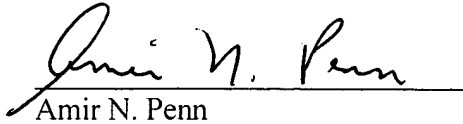
By contrast, one aspect of the present invention is to store the program guide database accessible by a central device. The user's retrieval conditions, such as the personal information relating to favorites, may similarly be stored in a memory which is accessible by the central device, such as a server. In this manner, the server may determine which programs from the program guide database meet the user's retrieval conditions, and transmit those programs which meet those conditions to the user's radio communication terminal. For example, claim 1 recites an "apparatus for wirelessly transmitting program information concerning a program to be broadcast" with the apparatus comprising "retrieving-conditions-storing-means for storing retrieving conditions which are set corresponding to the plurality of radio communication terminals", "retrieving means for retrieving a program satisfying the retrieving conditions stored in said retrieving-conditions-storing-means from said program information database" and "transmitting means for voluntarily transmitting, when a program satisfying said retrieving conditions is retrieved by means of said retrieving means, the program information concerning said retrieved program to said radio communication terminals corresponding to said retrieving conditions". Independent claims 6, 7, 12, 16, and 19 include similar limitations.

This central-device-based determination of the desired programs, using the retrieval conditions, is markedly different from the devices taught or suggested in the prior art. As discussed above, the Sato, Tsukidate and Ismail references each teach that the entire database is downloaded to the user's television device. Further, Sato teaches that the user may select programs at the user's home, after downloading the entire database. This arrangement requires the download of the entire database, which can be quite large, as opposed to what is presently claimed. Thus, the invention, as presently claimed, is not obvious in light of the cited art.

3. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1-32 are allowable in their present form, and hereby request allowance. If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amir N. Penn", written over a horizontal line.

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